

## The Mystery of Daniel Dunham:

### BURIED SILVER & BURIED ANCESTRY

Thanks to Gladys Donham, Houston, TX, we have this interesting article from the *Houston Chronicle* of Mar. 14, 1993 about treasure hunting -- & treasure hiding. It appears that this particular treasure hunt was unsuccessful, & it may be that Daniel Dunham's silver is still in the ground somewhere.

Who was Daniel Dunham? Was he a bandit, as this article assumes? Gladys hopes somehow to prove that he was not. He may well have been fairly closely related to the branch of the family that we can only identify as being connected with the Robert Holmes Dunham who perished as a result of the 1843 Black Bean "Lottery" incident in Mexico. DANIEL seems to have been a traditional first name in this branch, but our scanty records of it are generally lacking in birth & death dates, so we can't hazard a guess as to which Daniel he might have been. (This branch was discussed previously in the July & Dec. 1995 DD issues.)

We've also heard that there was a Dunham who fell at the Alamo. Can anyone supply more information about this?



Leon  
Hale

## Treasure hunt on the Nueces

**F**ALFURRIAS — The last couple of days I have been learning a few things about treasure hunting with a metal detector. One thing is, it's not as much fun as I thought it would be.

The beginning of this was, a week ago Old Friend Morgan and I came south out of Houston to meet spring, as we've done early in March for the last 16 years. I've been reporting on the expedition for a week, as you know if you keep up with these dispatches.

In addition to meeting spring (which is coming north like always but on a sort of spastic schedule) we decided that we would hunt for buried treasure. This part of the state has a lot of undiscovered treasure. We brought with us four books that deal in whole or part with lost Texas treasure, and who lost it, and how, and where it might be.

So we acquired a metal detector. The reason is that recent information came to us about the location of the famous Rock Pens on the Nueces River. The Rock Pens are in McMullen County, which is not a major trip from where I am sitting now in a Falfurrias motel.

The first I ever heard about the Rock Pens was in J. Frank Dobie's book, *Coronado's Children*, published back in 1930. I didn't read it that year but I did in about '39, and several times again since.

### 31 loads of silver by the river

In 1873, according to that book, a fellow by the name of Daniel Dunham gave a death-bed statement that he helped bury 31 mule loads of silver on the bank of the Nueces near Laredo Crossing.

Dobie wrote in the book that Dunham was probably a member of a gang of bandits that raided a mine and a church in Mexico and were running north with their loot when they were threatened by Mexicans, trailing along in the hope of getting their stolen silver back.

So Dunham's bunch buried the silver there on the Nueces "in some rocks laid around like a pen" there at Laredo Crossing.

As far as I know, nobody has ever explained how a mine, much less a church, in Mexico ever yielded 31 mule loads of silver in the 1870s. But as Dobie said in 1930, treasure hunters had searched ever since for the Rock Pens.

They have been searching ever since 1930, too. A Houston newspaperman with the initials L.H. strained his budget searching for the Pens in '56, and again in '71. He had come pretty well to his senses about the matter until just recently, when one of the customers passed along some fresh information about the Rock Pens.

Naturally I am not going to put in the paper what that person said, at least not until we get through checking out the tip.

### Two quarters over the shoulder

In this life I've done quite a lot of treasure hunting but I've never before been armed with a serious metal detector. So before we did any actual treasure hunting, I needed to learn how to operate the detector.

I read the operator's manual and got the detector making what sounded like the right noises and took it out to practice, in a sort of vacant lot out back of the motel here in Falfurrias. To provide myself a test I pitched two quarters over my left shoulder to see if I could then turn around and locate them with the detector.

By the time I got turned around, two little boys had arrived to watch, and two more were coming half a block away. That was my first lesson in metal detector operation — you can't operate one in public without drawing a crowd.

Now a metal detector of this type is not really an impressive-looking apparatus. It's simply a metal wand with a round flat plate, or coil, on the bottom and a little control box at the top and you go along moving the coil over the ground and it's something like running an upright vacuum cleaner.

However, my limited experience says that somehow spectators are apt to associate the detector with explosive devices, and will ask if you are searching for a bomb, or a land mine. I have no notion of why.

I am not yet ready to say what I have located with this detector. But if you see me in the near future driving around in a long black new car, you can draw your own conclusions. Thirty-one mule loads of silver ought to buy me some pretty fancy wheels.

But I don't mind admitting at least one failure — I never did find the quarters I pitched over my shoulder. My guess is that those two little boys retrieved them before I could turn around and start metal detecting.



## THE DUNHAM FOUNDRY

An account of the Dunham Co. of Berea, OH, comes to DD from Allen Curtis, Williamsburg, VA. He found it in the book *Men of Grit & Substance* by W. F. Holzworth, &, thanks to Allen, we can excerpt it here:

Not until 1890 when the Dunham Foundry came to Berea was there any other sizable industry other than the quarries. THE DUNHAM CO. originated in a small foundry started by George Webber on the canal in Boston, Summit County, Ohio. He made a line of farm implements, plows, harrows, cultivators, wood saws, bob sleighs and castings for farmers such as plowshares, kettles, and stove grates. He used a horse and a sweep to run the fan to melt the iron in a charcoal-fired furnace.

In 1848, he moved his foundry to Whipps Ledges in Hinckley, where the power could be developed by a dam and an over-shot water wheel, 35 feet in diameter and 2 feet wide. In 1850, he moved to Hinckley Center into a three-story building built for other purposes. Here he employed 10 to 15 men. The plant was 10 miles from the nearest railroad depot and the roads were bad, making it difficult to haul all materials by horses and wagons.

In 1860, the three Dunham brothers, M. W., A. H. and John, started to work for Webber and at the close of the Civil War they bought the foundry from Webber. Webber was the father of the Honorable Judge A. R. Webber of Lorain County, the author of the biography of John Baldwin.

In 1868, A. H. and M. W. Dunham sold their interest to their brother John and departed for Michigan to start another foundry. In 1869, H. E. Wilcox purchased an interest in the John W. Dunham Foundry and they started the making of wooden land rollers using wrought iron axles and rims. In 1875, Mr. Wilcox withdrew and went into the saw mill business. In 1880, John started the manufacturing of cast iron land rollers. In 1881, his son Wiley J. became a partner and the firm became the Dunham and Son Co. In 1885 they switched to making steel land rollers.

In 1889, they abandoned the foundry at Hinckley and came to Berea to locate along the river bank near the southern end of Runn Street in a building called the old mill. Here they built a plant 36 x 60 feet with a floor space of 1000 square feet of working room, and installed a cupola four feet in diameter. The frame building which had escaped the flames in the Davies Brewery fire was hauled up to River Street for the Dunham Co. Office. In 1901, Byron Wyman was the foundry foreman.

John Dunham, who lived in Runn Street, died in December 1906 at the age of 73 and was buried at Hinckley. His widow and two children, Wiley J. and Mrs. Frank Woodruff survived him.

In 1902, Ray E. Dunham, son of Wiley J., came into the business. In 1906, another son, John R. Dunham, became a partner. In 1908, G. Archie Dunham, the third and youngest son of Wiley, was added to the firm. In 1909, the business was incorporated as the Dunham Company.

The plant was located on River Street until 1909. In April, 1909, the Dunham Co. purchased four acres for \$1750 from the Ohio Nut and Bolt Co. just east of their factory on First Ave. The new and modern foundry they built with railroad facilities alongside was considered the ultimate in foundries. They moved into it in September, 1909, and made their first pouring on Dec. 31, 1909. In 1912 the old River Street plant was torn down.

A double and single gang soil pulverizer called the "Culti Packer" was patented in 1914 to replace the steel land rollers and became their main product. Carloads shipped from Berea made the name of Dunham and Berea widely known throughout the midwest agricultural belt. Other farm tools such as harrows and weeder were added.

In 1916, they started making gray iron castings for auto manufacturers; transmission housings for the Gray, Chandler, Cleveland, Paige, Jordon, Jewett and Yellow Cab and a large volume of Chevrolet castings; fly wheels for Model T Fords and later the large castings for the Fordson tractor. A water heater called the Bulls Eye was added to their line of products.

IN THE PEAK YEARS of their production they employed around 350 men and rivaled the quarries in freight shipments to and from Berea.

In 1920, John R. Dunham, vice president of the company, severed connections and accepted a position with General Motors. At the time of his death in April, 1935, he had been general superintendent of the Chevrolet Foundry in Saginaw, Mich. for the last five years.

Three other men who joined the Dunham Co. and held important positions were Harry Au, a foundry superintendent who became sales manager; R. Cunningham, assistant general manager, and H. P. Collins, general superintendent. Wiley J. Dunham had retired and Ray E. succeeded him as president. Wiley died in Florida in January, 1934, at the age of 72.

Manufacturers of farm tractors began making tools adapted to their own tractors and offered the tractor along with a full complement of tools, thus forcing many independent makers of farm tools out of business.

In July, 1930, the Dunham Co. purchased the Indiana plant of the Rude Manufacturing Co. makers of manure spreaders. The Indiana foundry operations was brought to Berea but the manure spreaders were assembled in Indiana under the supervision of Harry Au.

The depression years of the early 1930s placed the Dunham Co. in dire financial straits. Cunningham had been appointed to succeed Ray Dunham as the general manager when Ray became president. On Sept. 25, 1932, Hugh Wells was named as a trustee for the company by Wm. Woods -- referee in bankruptcy -- to succeed Ray Dunham and shortly after the Dunham Co. suspended operations and was placed on the auction block due to involuntary bankruptcy.

Ray E. Dunham with the aid of his brother John was able to purchase it and operate it under a greatly reduced production until 1953, when the foundry passed out of the hands of Ray. He sold his interest to Lovell Shockey. He died Jan. 22, 1956, at the age of 71.

The foundry operated under the name of the Dunham Co. with Byron G. Elton as president. In August, 1956, the Mohawk Foundry of Cleveland, molders of aluminum castings, purchased the land and buildings of the Dunham Co. for \$210,000 and the Martin Steel Products of Mansfield, Ohio, purchased the Dunham operations and inventory for \$70,000. Thus an industry which contributed immensely to the economy of this area and made such a great impact on its social character passed out of existence.



**Dunham-Donham List, 13:07 04.06.97, Time Line-Part II**

To: Dunham-Donham List

From: "Gratia S. Mahony" <gmahony@bts.sk>

(cont. from Part I)

\*\* Effort to Find Proof

In "Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth, Mass., 1589-1669, and His Descendants", pub. in 1907, Isaac Watson Dunham develops a fanciful story about the background and parentage of John Dunham, the emigrant. I.W. Dunham lists no ref. or source material to support his claim, and indeed the fictionalization about John Dunham being John Goodman of the Mayflower has been proven false. (TAG Vol. 30:143)

According to I.W. Dunham, John Dunham was supposedly at Scrooby. "William Bradford and John Dunham, while in their boyhood, were placed under the spiritual guidance of William Brewster, who was postmaster of Scrooby" )ref. Dunham Gen. p. 2; but he gives no ref. for the above statement. From the above Time Line we note that Wm. Bradford and John Dunham were both born in 1589. From the above Time Line we can also see that John Dunham was still in England (and at Clophill in 1612, and at Henlow in Feb. 1614/15) Ref. TAG Vol. 71:130-33

From TAG Vol. 30:143 we note that John Dunham, widower of Susanna; betrothed to Abigail Barlow (sic. Ballou) 7 Oct. 1622 with witnesses her father and sister, . . . Lived in Zevenhuysen Oct. 15, 1622, with three children by first wife...John, Humility & Thomas.

Thus, we know that John Dunham was in Henlow, Bedfordshire Eng. in Feb. 1614/15, and in Holland by Oct. 1622. We do not know where the children of John and Susanna (Susan) named Humility and Thomas were born. Nor do we know when or how John Dunham and his family went to Holland.

From the TAG article in Vol. 71:130-33, the will of Richard Dunham, poulter, of Langford, Bedfordshire, dated 5 Oct. 1624, mentions his sons Richard, William and John, and his daughters Ann and Elisabeth. Children of the son William appear in baptismal records from 1610-1616 at Arlesley, Bedfordshire, a village very close to Henlow. (Ref IGI Bedfordshire, Dunham)

Further research is necessary to determine (if possible) any connection between Richard Dunham who died in Langford, and any members of the Dunham family of the area of Nottinghamshire about Scrooby. (no evidence of a connection has been shown to date)

Further research should also be undertaken to determine if there was any connection between John Dunham, and the families of John and Edward

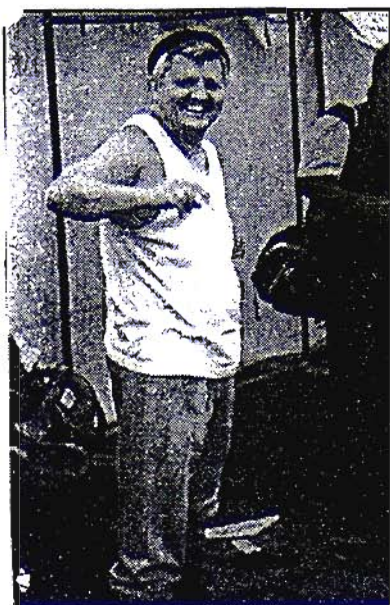
Tilley who were also from Henlow, Bedfordshire, and later found at Leyden. The Tilley brothers and their wives, tog. with John Tilley's dau. Elizabeth Tilley, were passengers on the Mayflower.  
(see article by Robert L. Ward in TAG Vol. 52:198-208)

END If anyone has further info. please advise me,  
Gratia Dunham Mahony gmahony@bts.sk  
or KRMahony@AOL.com



# Editor becomes 'Russian prisoner'

Urbana native had extra role in action-adventure movie filmed in Ohio



RANDY DUNHAM

## Citizen Staff Report

MANSFIELD, Ohio — Urbana native Randy Dunham recently played the role of a Russian prisoner in a film starring Harrison Ford and Glenn Close.

The Columbia Pictures' action-adventure film, slated to be released next summer, has a working title of "A.F.O."

In Mansfield 160 people were chosen for extra roles as prisoners from more than 2,500 who auditioned. The Ohio State Reformatory was converted into a Russian prison during the two-day session. The city was one of three in Ohio where the film was shot; the others were downtown Cleveland and Rickenbach Air National Guard Base in Columbus.

Dunham recalls a highlight of the film was seeing Close. "She was standing literally five feet from me."

Although he is not allowed to comment on the plot or the scenes, he believes "it will be a

thrilling movie...the kind that keeps you on the edge of your seat."

As part of the filming, the "hero prisoners" were attired with full body make-up and costumes. "I had a pasty white body cream put all over me, dark wrinkles were added around my eyes and scabs and blood smears added to my nose and arms," he said.

During filming inside the prison, he was placed in a seven-foot by eight-foot cell for nearly three hours. In all, he filmed for 24 hours, all

at night. Though he had no speaking parts in the film, he was involved in group scenes where he "screamed and cheered."

Dunham is a 1978 Urbana High School graduate. He attended Ball State University and is a graduate of the Defense Information School in Indianapolis. After serving in the Air Force, he returned to the area and was managing editor of the Piqua Daily Call. Presently he is managing editor of the News Journal in Mansfield.

He is married to the former Debbie Vermillion. They have three children, Ryan, 11; Rachel, eight; and Molly, six months. The family resides in Lexington, Ohio.

Dunham's grandmother, Elsie Heimann, and his father, Richard Dunham Sr., reside in Urbana.

JoAnn Y. Gwinn gets the credit for sending this clipping from an Ohio newspaper, dated Sept. 30, 1996. Like so many of the Dunhams who are making contemporary news, Randy Dunham is unknown to us in regard to his connection to the total family picture. If anyone knows Randy (or any of the others who appear in DD), do let us know.

## DUNHAMS IN INDIANA, 1860

DUNHAM, AARON	JOHNSON, C. 645	NINEVAH TWP IN
DUNHAM, ABEL	JENNINGS 188	VERNON TWP IN
DUNHAM, ABENR	JENNINGS 188	VERNON TWP IN
DUNHAM, ALANSON F.	WAYNE CO. 012	CENTREVILLE IN
DUNHAM, AMRA	VIGO CO. 389	HONEY CREEK IN
DUNHAM, BERTON S.	BROWN CO. 091	HAMLIN TWP IN
DUNHAM, BENJAMIN	DECATUR C. 949	SAND CREEK T IN
DUNHAM, BENJAMIN	DECATUR C. 950	SAND CREEK T IN
DUNHAM, CHARLES	PIKE CO. 057	WASHINGTON T IN
DUNHAM, CHARLOTTE	JACKSON C. 504	MEORA TOWN IN
DUNHAM, CYRUS J. JR.	JENNINGS 355	MARION TWP IN
DUNHAM, DANIEL	DECATUR C. 947	SAND CREEK T IN
DUNHAM, DAVID	JOHNSON C. 660	WILLIAMSBURG IN
DUNHAM, EDWARD B.	WAYNE CO. 573	RICHMOND IN
DUNHAM, EDWIN D.	WAYNE CO. 582	RICHMOND IN
DUNHAM, ELEANOR	UNION CO. 304	LIBERTY IN
DUNHAM, ELIZABETH	JOHNSON C. 662	WILLIAMSBURG IN
DUNHAM, EMILY	RANDOLPH 771	GREENSFORK T IN
DUNHAM, FANNY B.	WAYNE CO. 573	RICHMOND IN
DUNHAM, FREEMAN	JAY CO. 276	PENN TWP IN
DUNHAM, GEORGE H.	WAYNE CO. 573	RICHMOND IN
DUNHAM, GEORGE	SPENCER C. 319	GRASS TWP IN
DUNHAM, HENRIETTE	WAYNE CO. 012	CENTREVILLE IN
DUNHAM, HENRY F.	WAYNE CO. 001	CENTREVILLE IN
DUNHAM, HOMER	WAYNE CO. 498	HARRISON TWP IN
DUNHAM, ISIAH	VIGO CO. 459	PEARSON TWP IN
DUNHAM, J. B.	UNION CO. 332	CENTRE TWP IN
DUNHAM, J. C.	BROWN CO. 097	HAMLIN TWP IN
DUNHAM, JACOB	VIGO CO. 405	HONEY CREEK IN
DUNHAM, JAMES A.	WAYNE CO. 581	RICHMOND IN
DUNHAM, JANE	WAYNE CO. 498	HARRISON TWP IN
DUNHAM, JEREMIAH	JOHNSON C. 653	NINEVAH TWP IN
DUNHAM, JOHN	BARTHOLOM 261	HARRISON TWP IN
DUNHAM, LEONER	VIGO CO. 459	PEARSON TWP IN
DUNHAM, MARGARET	VIGO CO. 521	TERRE HAUTE IN
DUNHAM, MARY	DECATUR C. 948	SAND CREEK T IN
DUNHAM, MARY	SPENCER C. 319	GRASS TWP IN
DUNHAM, MARY A.	WAYNE CO. 581	RICHMOND IN
DUNHAM, MICHAEL	WASHINGTON 209	SALEM TOWN IN
DUNHAM, NANCY R.	WAYNE CO. 573	RICHMOND IN
DUNHAM, ORSAN	JEFFERSON 863	LANCASTER TWP IN
DUNHAM, OSWELL M.	JOHNSON C. 617	BLUE RIVER T IN
DUNHAM, ROBERT H.	JOHNSON C. 661	WILLIAMSBURG IN
DUNHAM, ROBERT M.	VIGO CO. 460	PEARSON TWP IN
DUNHAM, RODNEY	UNION CO. 348	UNION TWP IN
DUNHAM, SAMUEL	JAY CO. 095	RICHLAND TWP IN
DUNHAM, SARAH	WAYNE CO. 009	CENTREVILLE IN
DUNHAM, SARAH	VIGO CO. 520	TERRE HAUTE IN
DUNHAM, U. S.	VIGO CO. 389	HONEY CREEK IN
DUNHAM, WILLIAM	HENRY CO. 261	STONE CREEK IN
DUNHAM, WILLIAM	JAY CO. 146	WAYNE TWP IN
DUNHAM, ALPHIUS	JEFFERSON 869	LANCASTER TWP IN
DUNHAM, FRANKLIN	HANCOCK C. 530	VERNON TWP IN
DUNHAM, AARON	FRANKLIN 110	SPRINGFIELD IN

## QUERIES

P. C. ALGER, 14 Lesley Circle, Derry, NH 03038, is searching for more information re HANNAH ALGER, who married DANIEL DUNHAM. Hannah was born in 1791 in West Bridgewater, MA. She & Daniel lived in Attleboro, MA in 1819 & 1820. Needs Daniel's lineage.

JOANN GWINN, 7475 SW 102nd Ave., Beaverton, OR 97008-6512, is descended through STEPHEN DUNHAM (son of Edmund Dunham, Jr. & Dinah Fitzrandolph. Stephen's wife was Ruth ----. She would like to get in touch with anyone who knows anything about this man. She would also like to learn footwear called DUNHAM BOOTS.